THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Reports of malpractices by the Chief Flying Instructor (CFI) of M/s. Carver Aviation Academy were duly investigated by Dierctorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Investigation revealed irregularity in the functioning of the academy, including improper logging of flying records, issue of fake certificates, non-compliance or rules and procedures, unauthorised night - flying, manipulation of records and lack of proper monitoring system.

(c) to (e) Pending investigation, the licence of the academy was suspended by DGCA. The CFI status of Capt. Ashim Taxali was withdrawn. However, in view of the fact that the management of the institute themselves detected the malpractices and reported to the local police authorities and keeping in view the career prospects of trainees enrolled with the institute, the suspension of the licence was revoked after assurance from the academy of a strict monitoring system. DGCA has been directed to ensure that these systems are in place.

Grounding of overweight Air Hostesses

*92. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that overweight air hostesses of State-run carrier of India have been grounded; and

(b) if so, the number of such air hostesses grounded and what will be their future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As on February, 2008, there are 22 airhostesses of erstwhile Indian Airlines, 16 airhostesses of erstwhile Air India and 5 airhostesses of Alliance Air who are groudned due to being over weight. Such cabin crew are asked to reappear for weight check periodically and are assigned flight duty once they conform to the prescribed weight lmits. Cabin crew who continue to remain overweight are evaluated by a duly constituted Medical Board and based on its assessment and recommendations, further action is taken as per the Terms of Employment.

Criteria for setting up new airports in the country

*93. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government plans to develop 500 new airports in the country; and

(b) if so, the details as to number of airports per State and also what is the criteria for selection of different airports for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Considering the robust growth in civil aviation in the country in recent years and likelihood of this trend to continue in near future, efforts are being made to augment airport infrastructure all over the country. Two greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership (PPP) are under consideration and expected to be commissioned shortly. Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured and are being expanded and modernized in Public Private Partnership (PPP).